

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 27, 2006, in the above-identified application.

As an initial matter, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's willingness to conduct a personal interview of the present application on February 8, 2007, with the undersigned and one of the inventors, Anthony Angelino.

In addition, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 6-10, 32 and 50-52 contain allowable matter.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended each of the independent claims (i.e. claims 1, 5, 21, 28, 33, 35, 39, 41, 46, 49 and 53) to recite that the finished edge is an "unopposed edge." Independent claim 39 has been amended at line 14 thereof to correct a typographical error by changing the recitation "unfinished" to --finished--.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to drawing FIGS. 2A-2C, 3A-3C and 8A-8B. In response, Applicants submit herewith a Letter to the Official Draftsman to request authorization to amend drawing FIGS. 2A-2C, 3A-3C, 4 and 8A-8B of the present application. The above-listed drawing figures have been amended to identify the drawing figures as "prior art." Applicants also submit herewith a Submission of Formal Drawings to submit formal drawings that include the above-mentioned changes.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5, 11-12, 14, 21, 23-26, 33-37, 41-48, 53 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2 316 353 to Lewis. Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3 thereof, Lewis teaches that opposing edges 5A, 5B of two pieces of fabric 3A, 3B are placed adjacent to one another with a gap between the opposing edges. A bonding material 9 is placed in the gap between the opposing edges and

the bonding material is cured to secure the opposing edges of the two pieces of fabric together. Lewis teaches eliminating edges, which is the exact opposite of what is recited in the claims of the present application.

In response to the Office Action, and as discussed during the personal interview and during a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned on March 20, 2007, Applicants have amended the independent claims rejected under Lewis to recite that the "finished edged" is an "unopposed edge." The claimed "unopposed edge" is unanticipated by Lewis because each of Lewis' fabric edges is opposed by another edge and is joined to the opposing edge by a bonding material 9 (FIG. 2). As a result, each edge in Lewis is constrained from moving and stretching freely because it is coupled to an opposing edge through the bonding material. For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the independent claims in the present application are unanticipated by or unobvious over Lewis and are otherwise allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 21, 23, 27-28, 30, 33, 41-44 and 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,226,275 to Kiess, which teaches using a "monofilament." Throughout, Kiess teaches that only single monofilament threads having very small diameters may be used. For example, in column 3, lines 9-11, Kiess teaches using a monofilament thread having a diameter of approximately 8 mils, i.e. 1/125 inch. As discussed during the interview by the inventor, Mr. Angelino, using a monofilament at an edge creates an edge that will easily unravel. Moreover, in column 1, lines 12-18, Kiess teaches away from using a "bead" or a ply of a curable polymer material. Specifically, Kiess teaches that using a ply will cause problems related to undesirable appearance and lack of flexibility in the seam.

Applicants note that the Interview Summary issued by the Examiner indicates the Examiner's recognition that the Applicants' claims are different than what is taught by Kiess. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the independent claims in the present application are unanticipated by or unobvious over Kiess and are otherwise allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 13, 15-20, 22 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 13 is unobvious over Lewis because the reference neither discloses nor suggests a method "wherein said dispenser includes a series of openings for dispensing said curable polymer, at least one of said openings having a different size than at least another one of said openings." Claims 13 and 15-20 are also unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 22 is unobvious over Lewis because the reference neither discloses nor suggests a method "wherein said at least one second polymer bead is narrower than said first polymer bead." Claim 22 is also unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 21, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 31 is unobvious over Lewis because the reference neither discloses nor suggests a method "wherein said second polymer beads are narrower than said first polymer beads." Claim 31 is also unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 28, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner also rejected claims 27-29 and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis. Claim 27 is unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 21, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

Claim 28 is unobvious over Lewis because the reference neither discloses nor suggests a method "wherein the finished edges are unopposed edges that are stretchable for adjusting to movement of said cut pattern pieces." Claim 29 is unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 28.

Claim 39 is unobvious over Lewis because the reference neither discloses nor suggests the steps disclosed therein including "curing said polymer material for finishing the one or more edges of said cut pattern pieces, wherein the finished edge of said spread is devoid of a knitted-in edge and is an unopposed edge." Claim 40 is unobvious, *inter alia*, by virtue of its dependence from claim 39, which is unobvious for the reasons set forth above.

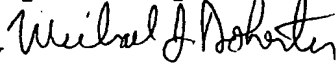
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 21, 2007

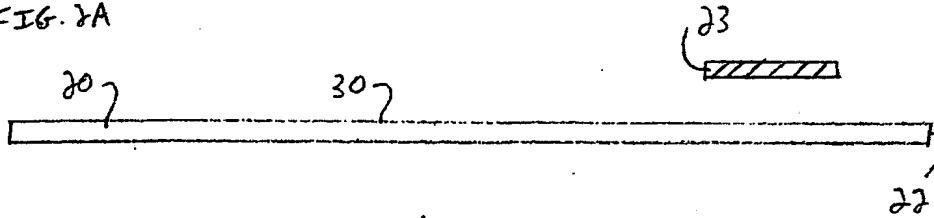
Respectfully submitted,

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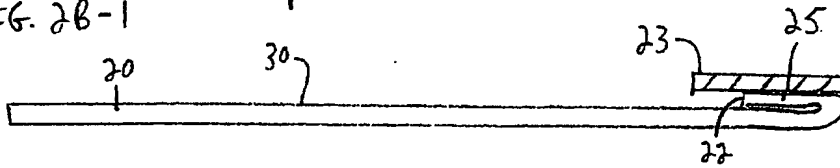
Prior Art

FIG. 2A



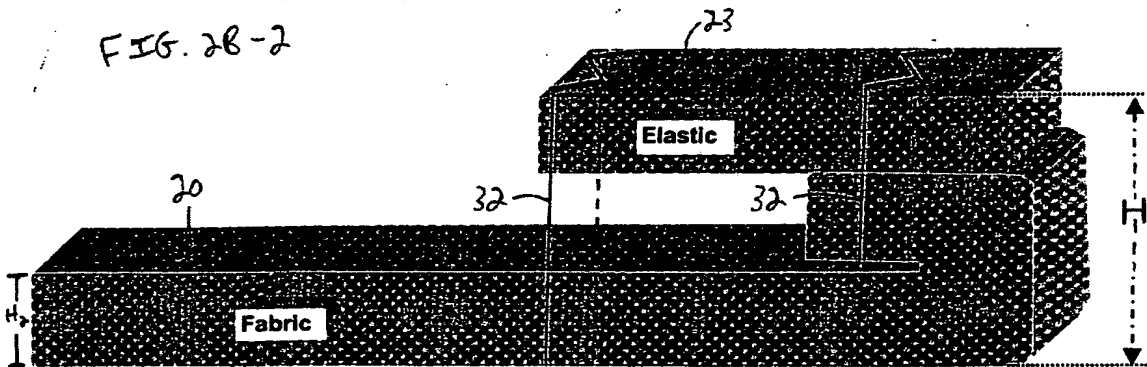
Prior Art

FIG. 2B-1



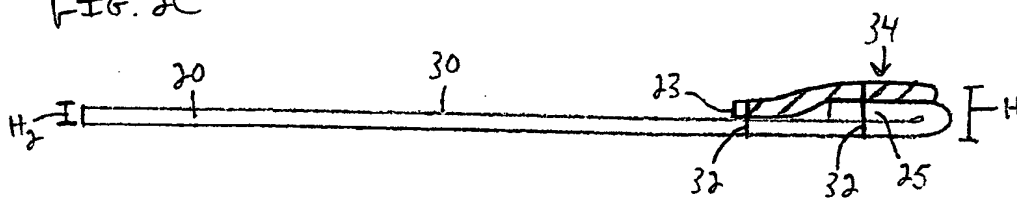
Prior Art

FIG. 2B-2



Prior Art

FIG. 2C



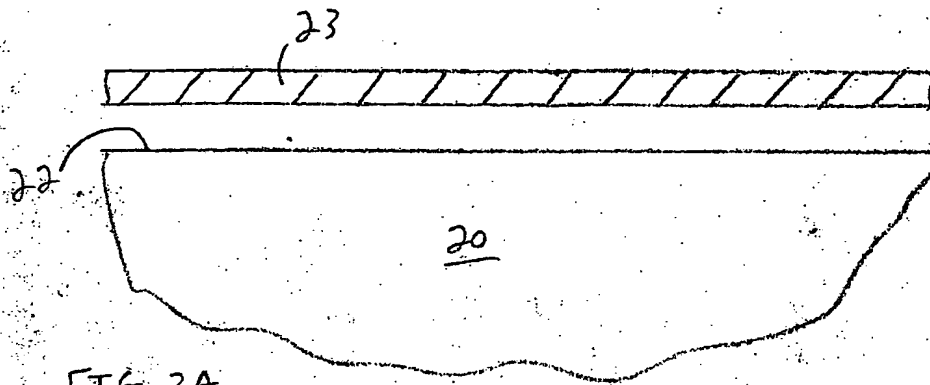


FIG. 3A

Prior Art

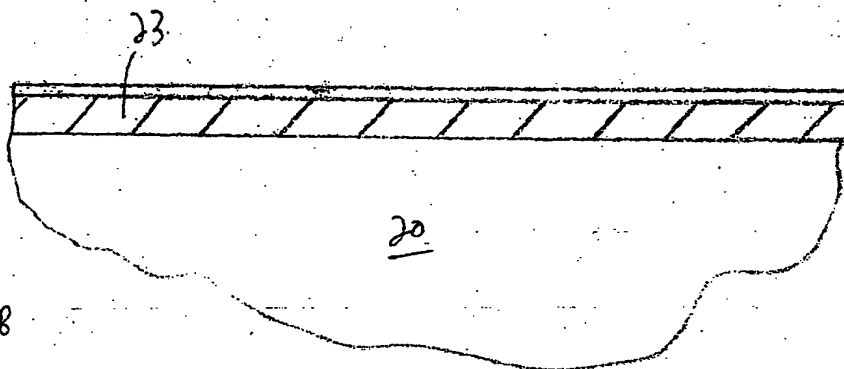


FIG. 3B

Prior Art

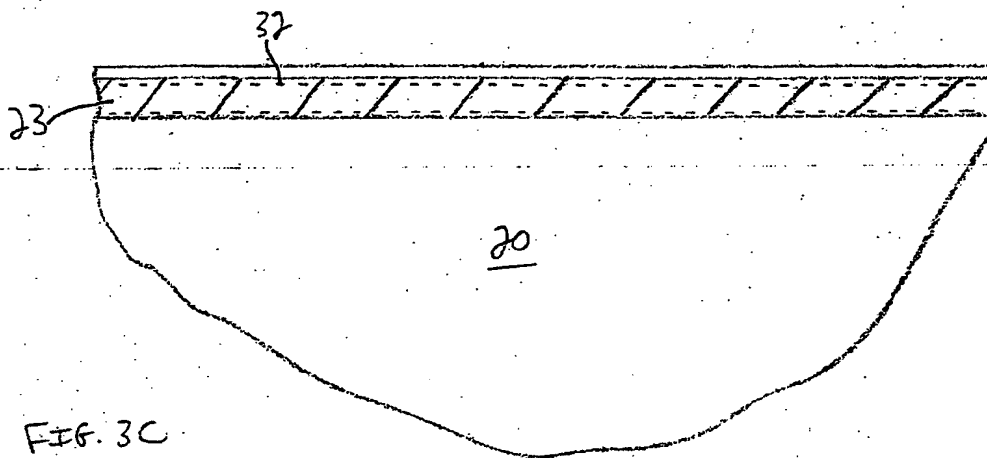


FIG. 3C

Prior Art



Prior Art

FIG. 4

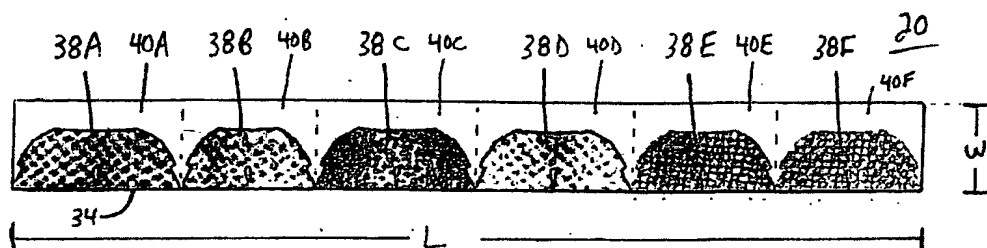
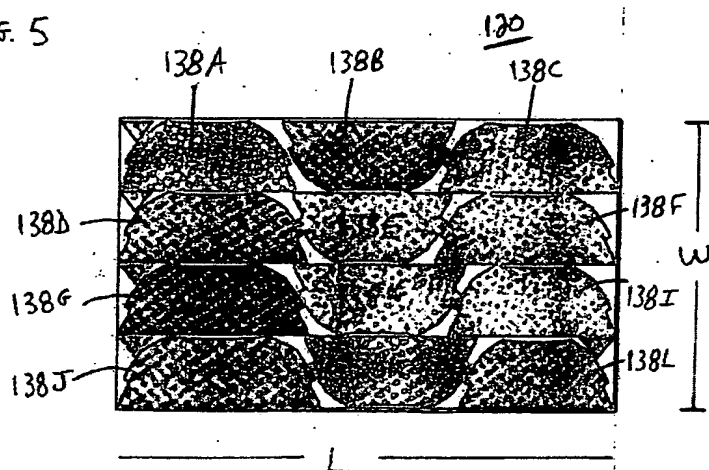


FIG. 5

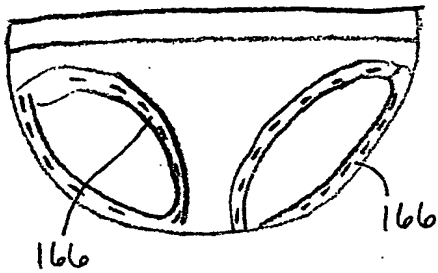




Prior Art

FIG. 8A

164



Prior Art

FIG. 8B

164

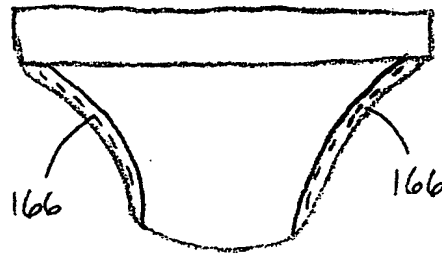


FIG. 9A

164'

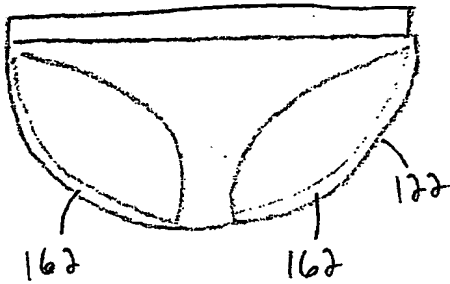


FIG. 9B

164'

